

# ASSESSMENT TOOLBOX

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## Introduction to assessment toolkits-

Assessment toolkits provide the educator with the a variety of assessment tools to choose from for formative and summative learning assessments. The educator will want to take many things into consideration before choosing their assessment tool. A pre-learning assessment could be accomplished using a survey or pre-test. Evaluating psychomotor skills can be accomplished through simulation and practicum. Evaluation, Synthesis, and Creativity can be evaluated using a variety of tools including concept maps, wikis, blogs, jigsaws, and peer to peer collaboration tools. Educators and students have used some of these assessment tools on classroom black boards and with pen and paper. Other assessment tools were developed only recently as technology improved and access to the internet expanded. Through a review of the literature and practical experience with the learning assessment, the educator can perform a reality check. Can this learning objective be measured using this assessment tool. What follows is a review of two on-line collaboration tools and examples of practical uses as assessment tools.

## Wiki's - Carolyn Jenkins

### Wiki's Introduced

A google search for "wiki defined" provided 7,560,000 results. According to Wikipedia, Ward Cunningham created the first wiki software program called WikiWikiWeb in 1994 and installed it on the internet in 1995. Rallis and Shannon described wiki's as web pages that can be created, accessed and edited by anyone with access to the internet and a web browser. The creator of the wiki determines whether or not viewers can view and / or edit parts of or the entire wiki. A wiki user does not have to be technically savvy or know anything about designing web pages or writing in computer language to create and use a wiki. In fifteen years, wikis have become one of the top 100 learning tools.

### Wiki -Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats

Wiki's have many strengths. Wiki's can be edited by anyone. They are easy to use and learn. Wiki's can provide almost instant gratification because you no longer have to wait for new editions of articles, books or updated publications. Wiki's facilitate group process, peer editing and brainstorming to build ideas. People from all over the world can collaborate on one document. Wiki's track editing of individual contributions and group process in a project. Previous versions can be restored if needed. Anyone who is not tech-savvy can still publish on the world wide web because wikis are user friendly. Wiki's are available free and at

reasonable costs. Digital files can be uploaded into the wiki such as pictures, movies, sound files.

Wiki's do have some inherent weaknesses. Wiki's can appear disorganized with multiple edits by multiple contributors. If documents need to be confidential, the author would need to use a wiki that limits user access. An alternative to using a wiki would be to use a word document and track changes or share the document through google docs. Wiki's should not be used when the document should be retained in it's original state. Internet connectivity is needed for collaboration. Internet access may be limited in rural areas or parts of the world. Important work or education projects and presentations on Wiki's may be unavailable or lost in the event of internet server failures. Backing up Wiki's on a regular basis is recommended.

A major threat to Wiki's is the possibility of being the victim of vandalism and spam. Security is basically in the hands of the community participating in the Wiki. The wiki participants become responsible for watching over the content for unconstructive criticism, vandalism and invalid content. This can be accomplished by setting up e-mail or reader service alerts when wiki content is edited. It requires a vigilant active wiki community. Other weaknesses and threats described in the literature relate to the authors lack of control of ownership and credit for the work produced on the wiki because it is by nature open-authoring. The contents reliability, validity and quality may vary considerably between wiki's.

### **Wiki -Opportunities and Possible Uses:**

Future opportunities for Wiki's are limited only by advancements in technology and creativity. Wikimatrix is an on-line comparison tool with a built in [Wiki Choice Wizard](#). Answer a few questions and the wiki choice wizard will provide you with a list of compatible wiki's for your project. Wiki's can be created in learning/course management systems such as blackboard or on the internet by setting up an account. Class/Group wikis, project wikis, and administrative wikis are possible uses for on-line nursing education programs. Students and educators learn how to use the technology, meet in groups on-line and build confidence using wikis. An on-line nursing student team can research content, design and edit the wiki, present and discuss the completed project and evaluate each of their team members. Nursing students will need a brief introduction to the wiki and explanation of how it works incorporated into the on-line class. Technical support and how to guides are available on the internet. The students need clear assignment criteria, clear explanation of how the wiki project is graded and time for project development. Nursing educators can also use wiki's as an administrative tool to decrease e-mails and enhance planning and coordination of their administrative work. Students, businesses, cooperatives, collaborators, partners can create, edit, share and organize information. Wiki has the potential to shift the power dynamic between the supervisor and employee, teacher and student, government leaders and their citizens.

### **Wiki's Recommended**

The Wikimatrix wizard recommended I try these wikis based on the answers I provided:

[Editme](#)   [PBwiki](#)   [Wikispaces](#)   [Wetpaint](#)   [Stikipad](#)

## Learning Objective- Wiki Use

Blooms Taxonomy: Synthesis

Participants will collaborate to contribute information to a nutritional resource guide for clients with sickle cell disease by posting and editing to the Sickle Cell Nutrition Resource Wiki. - A rubric to measure the quality and quantity of collaboration and contribution to the Wiki will be provided to participants to use as a guide for how they will be summatively assessed. by the instructor. Wiki discussions, posts, and edits can be used for formative assessment of how participants and the group is progressing in the learning module.

## WebEx Communications Inc. - Keiva Jones

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### WebEx Introduced

According to Wikipedia, **WebEx Communications Inc.** is a Cisco company that provides on-demand collaboration, online meeting, web conferencing and video conferencing applications. Its products include *Meeting Center, Training Center, Event Center, Support Center, Sales Center, MeetMeNow, PCNow, WebEx AIM Pro Business Edition, WebEx WebOffice, WebEx Connect*, and others.

### What is WebEx?

It is an online collaboration tool that provides real-time desktop sharing with phone conferencing so everyone sees the same thing while you talk. According to its website, it's far more productive than emailing files and struggling to get everyone on the same page over the phone. And it can often eliminate the need for people to travel and meet on site.

WebEx is a web based service so you can use it from any computer (Windows, Linux, or Solaris) as well as your iPhone, Blackberry, or any other WiFi or 3G enabled mobile device, according to the website, with no complicated installation. The customer logs into his/her account to start or schedule a session. The site says that participants don't need to be WebEx subscribers to join their collaborative team online. WebEx delivers dynamic, interactive training to employees, customers, and partners anywhere in the world. WebEx allows its participants to share visual content over the web in real time as they telephone conference; therefore, everyone sees and hears the same thing at the same time. Trainers, teachers, and students will reach more learners in less time plus, and this is the bonus of this collaboration tool, the participant will save the travel and costs associated with traditional on-site training.

### WebEx allows its participants to:

- Show presentations, demonstrate applications, share anything on their computer screen.
- Pass control to learners and provide a hands-on learning experience.
- Encourage interaction with easy-to-use tools, including interactive annotations and chat.
- Record sessions for self-paced learning.

All information comes from WebEx's website and WebEx offers these supports:

WebEx Training Center - Designed for trainers, includes breakout session support and learner testing, tracking and reporting. WebEx recently added on-demand LMS module, a component of the overall E-learning Suite.

WebEx Support Center - Allows support agents to identify, resolve and track customer issues within a secure, online support session.

### **Challenges and Weaknesses of WebEx:**

The downside is that WebEx is not a free platform like WiZiQ or Moodle and fees are paid per "host" of a classroom or a meeting.

### **Application of the tool in an online classroom**

We could jigsaw a particular topic together, bounce ideas off one another, and in real time submit our work to teach other for feedback, updates, and final production. With WebEx students are able to share their content in real time with each other instead of waiting for email. Anyone would be able to use this tool for synchronous conferencing for something like what we are doing now.

### **One Learning Objective Connected to the Assessment Tool: WebEx**

Students will engage in collaborative activities by using WebEx in order to demonstrate presentations synchronously according to the rubric given.

## **Summary and Conclusions**

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Two on-line collaboration tools were reviewed. In order to choose the assessment tool for measuring learning, the educator can start by identifying what the learner will need to be able to remember, perform, or create. The educator can use assessment tools to assess the learners baseline. Formative assessments can be used throughout the educational experience to assess the progress of learning. Summative assessments would be evidence of cumulative learning. The learning assessment tools chosen need to be valid for the learning experience and reliable in terms of measuring learning consistently taking into consideration the diverse population of learners. A variety of assessment tools are available for the educator to use for learning assessment. By reviewing the literature and practicing with the assessment tools, the educator gains valuable experience to use when selecting learning assessment tools.

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